

## Message Text

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ACTION EUR-08

INFO OCT-01 SS-14 ISO-00 NSC-05 NSCE-00 PM-03 INR-05  
CIAE-00 DODE-00 PRS-01 EB-04 SIL-01 /042 W  
-----190255Z 126659 /63  
R 181610Z APR 77  
FM AMCONSUL MILAN  
TO AMEMBASSY ROME  
INFO SECSTATE WASHDC 5353  
AMEMBASSY PARIS

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LIMDIS

E.O. 11652: N/A  
TAGS: PFOR, PINR, PINT, IT  
SUBJECT: MILAN COMMUNIST LEADER ON PCI PROBLEMS

1. ELIO QUERCIOLO, FORMER MANAGING DIRECTOR OF L'UNITA, MILAN CITY COUNCILMAN, CITY SECRETARY AND SINCE JUNE 1976, M.P. HAS ALWAYS BEEN ONE OF THE MOST CANDID AND AUTHORITATIVE OF OUR PCI CONTACTS. AFTER LONG INTERVAL (76 MILAN 0626) WE MET AT MILAN FAIR APRIL 17. HIS OBSERVATIONS FOLLOW.

2. QUERCIOLO, LED OFF WELCOMING CHANGE IN US VISA POLICY AND HOPED I HAD READ VERY RESPONSIBLE COMMENT MADE BY PECCHIOLO (UEO DELEGATION MEMBER), I POINTED OUT DILEMMA OF INTERPRETING PCI STATEMENTS AND ASKED WHETHER I SHOULD GIVE MORE WEIGHT TO PECCHIOLO OR TO COSSUTA WHO HAD ATTACKED AMERICAN IMPERIALISM WHILE SPEAKING AT PESARO. QUERCIOLO LOOKED HURT AND SHOOK HIS HEAD OBSERVING SADLY THAT COSSUTA SHOULD NOT HAVE SPOKEN AS HE DID. THAT WAS NOT THE RIGHT THING TO HAVE SAID.

3. TURNING TO THE CORRIERE DELLA SERA, I ASKED IF HE WASN'T  
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PLEASED WITH ITS SUPPORT FOR A LARGER PCI ROLE IN GOVERNMENT? QUERCIOLO, DIDN'T FIND THE CORRIERE VERY HELPFUL RECENTLY. OWNER RIZZOLI HAD MADE HIS PEACE WITH THE DC TO GET FINANCING FOR HIS EMPIRE AND THE PRICE WAS A SHIFT IN LINE UNFAVORABLE TO THE PCI.

4. UNFORTUNATELY, RUNNING A NEWSPAPER COST A FORTUNE. L'UNITA',

PAESE SERA AND 24 ORE IN SCILY WERE ALL PCI DAILIES AND THEY WERE ALL LOSING MONEY. ONLY FUND RAISING CAMPAIGNS KEPT THEM ALIVE.

5. MY JOKING THAT THE PCI HAD LOTS OF MONEY FROM ITS COOPERATIVES AND EAST - WEST TRADE MET WITH AN EARNEST DENIAL. NOT AT ALL, QUERCIOLO INSISTED. FOR SEVERAL YEARS THE PCI HAS TAKEN NO E-W MONEY IN ORDER TO ASSURE ITS INDEPENDENCE. NOR HAS IT GOTTEN A SINGLE LIRA FROM THE COOPERATIVE MOVEMENT. INDEPENDENCE WAS COSTLY, HOWEVER. WERE THE PARTY'S FULL PAGE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS, THEN, TO BE TAKEN AT FACE VALUE? WELL, NOT TOTALLY, BUT ALMOST SO, QUERCIOLO CLAIMED. THE PARTY HAD LARGE EXPENSES - INCLUDING UNDERWRITING A WEEKLY IN AUSTRALIA AND CAMPAIGNING AMONG ITALIAN EMIGRANTS THROUGHOUT WESTERN EUROPE.

6. THAT EXCLUDED FRANCE, HOWEVER. THE FRENCH COMMUNIST PARTY REFUSED TO ALLOW THE PCI TO BE ACTIVE WITHIN FRANCE ON THE GROUNDS THAT IF ANYONE WERE GOING TO RECRUIT COMMUNISTS IN FRANCE, IT WOULD BE THE PCF.

7. QUERCIOLO LOOKED TIRED. COMMUTING TO ROME WEEKLY WHILE SPEAKING THROUGHOUT ITALY AND KEEPING HIS HAND IN MILAN AFFAIRS WAS WEARING. A GOOD BIT OF HIS TIME WAS BEING TAKEN TRYING TO COPE WITH THE CISL AND UIL WHICH WERE CONSTANTLY OUTFLANKING THE CGIL TO THE LEFT. THAT MADE IT INCREASINGLY HARD TO MAKE THE CGIL STAND STILL ON GOVERNMENT POLICIES THAT WERE HARD FOR LABOR TO SWALLOW.

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8. CONCLUDING, QUERICOLI LAMENTED THE CONTINUED FOOT DRAGGING BY THE UNITED STATES ON L'UNITA'S REQUEST TO OPEN A US OFFICE. WHEN I REMINDED HIM THAT NO ONE HAD APPLIED FOR A VISA, HE FROWNED AND SAID THAT THE PCI WAS HESITANT TO APPLY UNTIL IT WAS SURE THAT THE REQUEST WOULD NOT BE REJECTED.FINA

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## Message Attributes

**Automatic Decaptioning:** Z  
**Capture Date:** 01-Jan-1994 12:00:00 am  
**Channel Indicators:** n/a  
**Current Classification:** UNCLASSIFIED  
**Concepts:** PERSONAL OPINION, PARTY LEADERS, POLITICAL PARTIES, PARTY FACTIONS, POLITICAL SITUATION  
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**Copy:** SINGLE  
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**Decaption Note:** 25 YEAR REVIEW  
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**Disposition Approved on Date:**  
**Disposition Case Number:** n/a  
**Disposition Comment:** 25 YEAR REVIEW  
**Disposition Date:** 22 May 2009  
**Disposition Event:**  
**Disposition History:** n/a  
**Disposition Reason:**  
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**Executive Order:** N/A  
**Errors:** N/A  
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**Office:** ACTION EUR  
**Original Classification:** LIMITED OFFICIAL USE  
**Original Handling Restrictions:** LIMDIS  
**Original Previous Classification:** n/a  
**Original Previous Handling Restrictions:** n/a  
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**Status:** NATIVE  
**Subject:** MILAN COMMUNIST LEADER ON PCI PROBLEMS  
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**Review Markings:**  
Margaret P. Grafeld  
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